

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: CU/EA:AHARDING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

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FOLLOWING REPEAT HONG KONG 0910 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USIA
JANUARY 28TH

QUOTE

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USIAC

FOR CU/EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FY74 IV GRANTS: NOMINATION OF MR. AND MRS. LO FU

1. HONG KONG NOMINATES MR. AND MRS. LO FU, BOTH EDITORS
OF PRC-BACKED NEWSPAPERS FOR FY-1974 IV GRANTS.

2. MR. LO, IN ADDITION TO BEING EDITOR NEW EVENING POST,
SISTER PUBLICATION OF PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO, IS CONSIDERED A KEY
FIGURE IN CONTROL COMPLEX OF PRC INFORMATION AND CULTURAL
ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG. ABOUT 55, MR. LO BORN IN KWEILIN,
KWANGSI PROVINCE AND ATTENDED KWANGSI UNIVERSITY. DURING
WORLD WAR II, WORKED FOR THE TA KUNG PAO IN KWEILIN. LATER WAS
TRANSFERRED TO CHUNGKING WHERE HE HELPED LAUNCH EVENING EDITION
OF THAT PAPER. IN 1948 ASSIGNED TO HONG KONG OFFICE OF TA KUNG PAO.

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3. MRS. LO, AN EDITOR FOR THE WEN WEI PAO, A MAJOR PRC PAPER IN HONG KONG, ALSO ATTENDED KUANGSHI UNIVERSITY WHERE SHE MAJORED IN ENGLISH.

4. RELATIVE TO THIS NOMINATION, OFFICERS IN CU/EA WILL RECALL THAT DURING FY-1973 THERE WAS RUNNING DIALOGUE BETWEEN HONG KONG CAO AND CU ON EFFORTS TO AWARD MR. LO A GRANT. HONG KONG'S 8159 OF DECEMBER 5, 1972 INFORMED CU THAT LETTER OF INVITATION WAS BEING SENT TO MR. LO. MR. LO ALSO WAS INFORMED THAT SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES COULD POSSIBLY BE INCLUDED.

5. DURING SPRING OF 1973, POST KEPT IN TOUCH WITH MR. LO AND ALTHOUGH HE SEEMED INTERESTED IN VISITING U.S., HE NEVER MADE FIRM ACCEPTANCE. DURING SUMMER AND FALL OF 1973, THERE WAS NOT MUCH CONTACT WITH MR. LO, BUT IT WAS NOTED WITH INTEREST THAT HIS PAPER CARRIED HIGHLY FAVORABLE REVIEWS OF TRANSLATED BOOKS SENT TO HIM BY USIS. HIS AND OTHER PRC-BACKED PAPERS ALSO WERE PUBLISHING CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY USIS. IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, AT DINNER HOSTED BY CAO, MR. LO INDICATED THAT HE AND WIFE BOTH INTERESTED IN VISITING U.S.

6. THE POST WISHES TO EXTEND MR. AND MRS. LO AN OFFICIAL INVITATION OVER THE SIGNATURE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL. THE PREVIOUS LETTER WAS SIGNED BY CAO.

7. THE POST SUSPECTS THAT ONE REASON WHY MR. LO DID NOT ACCEPT PREVIOUSLY IS HIS INABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH AND FEAR THAT HE MIGHT BE ASSIGNED AN INTERPRETER WHOM HE COULD NOT TRUST. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN BE OVERCOME BY ASSURING HIM THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE NATIVE AMERICAN TO SERVE AS ESCORT/INTERPRETER.

8. WE HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT MR. AND MRS. LO WILL ACCEPT, BUT IF THEY WISH TO TRAVEL DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, HONG KONG ALLOCATION WOULD HAVE TO BE INCREASED. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, WE COULD SEND THE LETTER OF INVITATION SOMETIME IN MARCH, OR LATER, INVITING THEM TO VISIT THE U.S. DURING FY-1975.

9. A PROMPT RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE WILL BE APPRECIATED.

ALLEN

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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